**Course-Embedded Assignment Reflection**

**EDLD 5306-Concepts of Educational Technology**

**Performance Task:**

1. *Students will complete all parts of each Technology/Leadership self-assessments and thoroughly document the results as required. Students will thoroughly summarize key ideas of each section of their State’s Technology Plan and describe their State Technology Curriculum Standards.*
2. *Create a blog and wiki reference document.*

**Reflection on Performance Tasks**

**Self-Assessment and Summary of State Technology Plan**

**Self-Assessment**

As I reflect back on completing the self-assessments for this course, I recognize the limited knowledge I had of terminology and of technology skills. The self-assessments brought to light my greatest weaknesses and strengths. The experience of comparing my pre-course self-assessment (old information) to the post-course self-assessment (new information) highlighted the areas where I had made the most advancement in knowledge. There is a sense of accomplishment that goes along with this experience that would be valuable to utilize in the classroom with my own students.This course also helped me gain a greater understanding of the Texas Long Range Plan for Technology and the State Technology Curriculum Standards. At the beginning of this course, I was not familiar with the Texas Long Range Plan for Technology. I did not even realize that the plan existed. This course opened my eyes to the expectations and vision of the Texas Long Range Plan for Technology.

**Learn as a Learner**

This lays an important foundation for what I need to strive for in my classroom. I am so much more aware of my own usage of technology in teaching my students than I was before. My approach to completing this assignment was to thoroughly review and summarize the new information that I was gaining, while trying to apply it to the previous information concerning educational technology that I had. I completed this assignment successfully with little interaction with colleagues, but with much interaction with the text. I realize from this activity that I much prefer human interaction and dialogue as opposed to interaction with mainly text. This realization makes me want to try to keep the interactions and dialogue going amongst my students in order to bring about greater learning experiences.

**Lifelong Learning Skills**

Because I am motivated by accomplishing a task successfully, this activity was rewarding and fulfilling. Acquiring new information through this experience will help me create in the future for my own students a similar activity to motivate their learning. As a result of this activity, I will plan more activities that provide “meaningful learning and that will require learners to interact with new information in ways that enable active inquiry” (Kundu & Bain, 2006, p. 6). As a lifelong learner, I plan to research ways that the Texas Long Range Plan for Technology can best be implemented. I recognize from the new knowledge that I acquired that these kinds of learning experiences can be achieved with more technology integrated projects in the classroom. To successfully accomplish this, teachers need “to combine what students know about technology with what we know about education” (Prensky, 2005, p. 71). With future research and investigation, I believe I can meet such challenges.

**Creating a Blog and Wiki Reference Document**

**Self Assessment**

Creating a wiki was the most interesting activity for me in this course. I learned what a wiki and blog are and how to set them up. I relied on my previous experience with creating word documents to help acquire the new knowledge of setting up a wiki. This made the experience positive for me rather than frustrating because everything was not foreign to me.

**Learn as a Learner**

Because I learn technology best by working through the technology, I used that strategy to complete this assignment. Through the set up and use of the wiki, I have taken on a leadership role of trying to implement some needed changes in technology usage on our campus. I invited several of my colleagues to join the wiki and to share ideas and post comments. “We had to learn how to learn again, and we did it, and we loved it. We have become a community of learners, and we’ve passed this love of learning on to students” ( Burns, 2002, p. 297). This interaction with my colleagues helped me see clearly the benefits of using a wiki to share and collaborate.

**Lifelong Learning Skills**

Recognizing these benefits will make me more apt to use wikis in the future with my colleagues and will impact my future learning of more applications for wikis. I am not normally a leader, but because I have made the decision to study and work towards this kind of degree, and because of the collaborative wiki, I have positioned myself as a leader in the cause for improving technology usage at our campus. Being a technology leader will require me to further research and investigate other tools that could be useful in the classroom.

References:

Burns, M. (2002). From compliance to commitment: Technology as a catalyst for communities of learning. *Phi Delta Kappa,* 84(4).

Kundu, R. & Bain, C. (2006). Webquests: Utilizing technology in a constructivist manner to facilitate meaningful preservice learning. *Art Education,* 59(2).

Prensky, M (2005). Adopt and adapt: Shaping tech for the classroom. *Edutopia: The George Lucas Educational Foundation.*